

Bill title: Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act

Bill number: [H.R. 5434](#)

Date introduced: May 27, 2010

Status: Referred to House Subcommittee on Agriculture.

Summary: The Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act will close a loophole currently used to sell large volumes of puppies through the internet and other means of mass media.

Today, facilities that breed dogs for commercial resale are required to be licensed and inspected under the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). However, the AWA exempts entities selling a high volume of animals at retail, which raises animal health and humane treatment concerns. This loophole in the law allows thousands of puppy mills or high volume dealers to sell directly to the public and go unchecked from any federal oversight.

These unregulated Internet retail breeders and other direct sales facilities sell thousands of puppies a year to unsuspecting consumers. Due to improper care and over crowded conditions by some breeders, their puppies are often ill, leaving unsuspecting consumers with sick, sometimes dying puppies and expensive vet bills. Meanwhile, the breeding dogs at these facilities often spend their entire lives in constant confinement and deprivation of basic needs of exercise and socialization.